

Catlow well,
Holy Well or Sacred Spring in Lancashire.

The well is located close to the Shooters Arms Inn on Southfield Lane. Not a great deal is known about it, but it was in use back in the 17th century.

In 1660 when the Inn was built the water was used by that establishment, its purity not being in doubt. But the spring itself is naturally formed, coming from deep in the hillside. It has been here since time immemorial.

For a long time the spring was overgrown, but recently in the 1980s it was restored by a local man. The stonework was tidied up and its three steps put back into place. The well basin was re-set to what it would have originally been. The water flows out of a curved stone aperture and into the square basin beneath. I have seen a few coins in the well, a sign of its sacredness perhaps, or is it a sign that this was a wishing well. The spring never dries up, even during droughts.

Catlow is a place steeped in history. The name itself is interesting. It could mean 'battle site near the ring of stones' or something to do with ferrel cats. Catlow is the site of Ringstone Hill - where a prehistoric stone circle once stood. And close by stands Walton Spire, the bottom section of which is a Dark Age stone menhir.